GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4850
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
COMPLAINTS AGAINST PRIVATE TELECOM OPERATORS
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu);Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolistic and Restrictive Trade Practice (MRTP) has received number of complaints against telecom companies such as Bharti, Airtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Company-wise;

(c) whether the MRTP has directed any enquiry against these companies;

(d) if so, the outcome of such enquiry; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (e)On the basis of the newspaper reports alleging simultaneous increase in prices by M/s Bharti Airtel Limited, M/s Vodafone Essar Limited and M/s Idea Cellular Limited, the Monopolistic and Restrictive Trade Practice (MRTP) Commission directed the Director General (I & R) to investigate. The DG (I & R) filed the Preliminary Investigation Report (PIR) stating that these three companies have indulged in unfair trade practices within the meaning of section 36-A of the MRTP Act and restrictive trade practices of cartelization under Section 33(1) 9d) read with Section 2(o) of the MRTP Act. The Commission considered the PIR and the matter is listed for framing of issues on 31.07.2008.